Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 DOTE-00 /060 R

DRAFTED BY EB/AN:RCPARR:DAP APPROVED BY EB/TT:JSMEADOWS EUR/NE - MR. DAWKINS

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R 121604Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRN, DA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - COPENHAGEN-BERLIN AIR SERVICE

REF: STATE 239375 (NOTAL)

1. DANISH EMBASSY TODAY HANDED IN DIPLOMATIC NOTE AT DEPARTMENT, PROPOSING THAT IF PROJECTED SERVICE (COPENHAGEN-BERLIN) COULD BE OPERATED AS INTERMEDIATE POINT, OR POINT BEYOND COPENHAGEN, ON S SERVICE BETWEEN USA AND COPENHAGEN, DANISH GOVT. WOULD BE PREPARED "TO FACILITATE THE OPERATION OF SUCH SERVICE BY PERMITTING CHANGE OF GAUGE IN COPENHAGEN..." FULL TEXT FOLLOWS:

"THE EMBASSY OF DENMARK PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND HAS THE HONOR, ACTING UPON INSTRUCTIONS, TO STATE THE FOLLOWING WITH REFERENCE TO THE ACTING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECRETARY OF STATE'S NOTE OF SEPTEMBER 20, 1973, CONCERNING

A PROPOSED NEW AIR SERVICE BETWEEN COPENHAGEN AND BERLIN'

"THE MATTER HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE DANISH AUTHORITIES

WHO IN VIEW OF THE SCANDINAVIAN COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF CIVIL AVIATION HAVE ALSO CONSULTED WITH THE COMPETENT NORWEGIAN AND SWEDISH AUTHORITIES.

"THE PROPOSED SERVICE MIGHT, IN THE OPINION OF THE SCANDINAVIAN AUTHORITIES, CONVENIENTLY BE ESTABLISHED ON THE BASIS OF THE AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT BETWEEN DENMARK AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, I.E. MAKING BERLIN EITHER AN INTERMEDIATE POINT OR POINT BEYOND ON A SERVICE BEWEEN USA AND COPENHAGEN.

"THE DANISH GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PREPARED, IF SO DESIRED, TO FACILITATE THE OPERATION OF SUCH A SERVICE FOR THE DESIGNATED CARRIER BY PERMITTING A CHANGE OF GAUGE IN COPENHAGEN AND HAVING A CLAUSE TO THAT EFFECT INSERTED IN THE AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT.

"THE EMBASSY AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION."

2. ACTING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MEADOWS TOLD DANES IT POSSIBLE THAT DANISH FORMULA (I.E. WITH DAILY BERLIN-COPENHAGEN SERVICE OPERATED ONLY IN CONNECTION WITH US-DENMARK SERVICES) MIGHT, FULFILL US NEED, DEPENDING ON CONSTRUCTION DANES CHOOSE TO PUT ON PLEDGE TO "FACILITATE THE OPERATION." HOWEVER, MEADOWS NOTED THAT, AS RESULT FUEL SHORTAGES, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT PANAM MIGHT IN FUTURE OPERATE LESS THAN DAILY FLIGHT IN US-DENMARK MARKET; IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES DANISH FORMULA WOULD NOT RPT NOT MEET US OBJECTIVES, UNLESS DANES PREPARED TO ACCRD SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY TO PERMIT BERLIN-COPENHAGEN SERVICE TO CONTINUE ON DAILY BASIS. DANES SAID THEY NOT RPT NOT AT THIS TIME ABLE TO GO BEYOND INSTRUCTIONS ON WHICH NOTE BASED.

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3. DANES STRESSED THAT OPERATION OF BERLIN-COPENHAGEN SERVICE UNDER TERMS OF EXISTING BILATERAL, RATHER THAN UNDER AMENDMENT TO TEXT AS PROPOSED IN US NOTE, WOULD MAKE DENMARK LESS VULNERABLE TO PRESSURES FROM UK AND FRENCH FOR SIMILAR RIGHTS. (COMMENT: WE ASSUME THAT, MORE IMPORTANTLY, SUCH COVER WOULD ALSO INSULATE DANES AGAINST REPRISAL OR HARRASSMENT BY GDR FOR ACCORDING "NEW" RIGHTS COPENHAGEN-WEST BERLIN.)

4. MEADOWS AGREED TO STUDY DANISH PROPOSAL AND RESPOND PROMPTLY. FYI: OUR INITIAL REACTION IS THAT IF WE ARE TO ACCEPT DANISH OFFER, WE MUST ALSO EXTRACT FROM DANES ASSURANCES, PERHAPS IN EXCHANGE OF NOTES OUTSIDE BILATERAL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT, THAT FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES PROPOSED BERLIN-COPENHAGEN SERVICE COULD BE OPERATED AS TURNAROUND SERVICE. END FYI. PORTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: AVIATION AGREEMENTS, AIR ROUTES, BERLIN AIR ACCESS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 12 DEC 1973 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE242794

Document Number: 1973STATE242794
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: RCPARR:DAP Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A Film Number: n/a From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731229/aaaaavbo.tel Line Count: 123 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE Office: ORIGIN EB

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 3

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: STATE 239375 (NOTAL) Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 29 AUG 2001

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29-Aug-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <25-Sep-2001 by cunninfx>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: CIVAIR - COPENHAGEN-BERLIN AIR SERVICE TAGS: ETRN, DA, US

To: COPENHAGEN

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005